

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
a memory which stores a plurality of captured images and additional information concerning the images;  
an image selector which selects an image to be erased among the plurality of images stored in the memory;  
a determination device which reads the additional information concerning the selected image and determines whether or not the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the read additional information; and  
an eraser which erases the selected image from the memory if the determination device determines that the selected image does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory, and prohibits the selected image from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory.
2. The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising:  
a display which displays that the selected image is prohibited from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory; and  
a decision device which decides whether to collectively erase the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image from the memory;  
wherein the eraser erases the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image from the memory if the

decision device decides to collectively erase the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image.

3. The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory.

4. The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory that were consecutively captured.

5. The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the image processing apparatus is an electronic camera capturing the images.

6. A method for erasing an image from a memory, comprising the steps of:  
selecting the image to be erased among a plurality of images stored in the memory;

reading an additional information concerning the image selected in the selecting step;

determining whether or not the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the additional information read in the reading step;

erasing the selected image from the memory if it is determined that the selected image does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step; and

prohibiting the selected image from being erased independently if it is

determined that the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step.

7. The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

if it is determined that the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step, displaying that the selected image is prohibited from being erased independently, and deciding whether to collectively erase the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image from the memory; and

erasing the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image from the memory if it is decided to collectively erase the selected image and the at least one of the plurality of images relating to the selected image from the memory in the deciding step.

8. The method as defined in ~~claim 6~~, wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory.

9. The method as defined in ~~claim 6~~, wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory that were consecutively captured.